DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed 04/23/2008. Claims 81-83 have been added and claims 43 and 81-83 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 43 and 81-83 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are allowable over the closest references: Mosbach et al. (US 5,959,050).

Summary of Claim 43:

Polymeric particles, which are molecularly imprinted, produced by a process comprising the steps of	
	expanding through a nozzle or an orifice a mixture containing a propellant in liquid form, monomers, and a template which does not covalently bond to said monomers to form particles containing the monomers in the presence of the template and to release the propellant from the mixture in the form of a gas;
	polymerizing the monomers in the particles in the presence of the template to form composite particles having polymer and template, wherein the template is not covalently bound to said polymer

	extracting the template from the composite particles without distorting a morphology of the composite particles to provide polymerized particles imprinted by the template with a size and arrangement of chemical functional groups complementary to the template
Wherein the polymerized particles imprinted by the template are 1 micron or less in size	

Mosbach et al. disclose a molecularly imprinted support comprising substantially spherical, uniformly shaped, and non-aggregated particles, wherein the particles are prepared by the suspension polymerization process comprising (A) providing a polymerizable composition containing at least two distinct acrylate monomers, at least one porogenic solvent, at least one fluorine-containing liquid, at least one fluorine-containing copolymer, and at least one print molecule; (B) executing suspension polymerization on the polymerizable composition to yield substantially spherical polymer particles; (C) isolating the spherical particles from the porogenic solvent and the fluorine-containing liquid; and (D) removing the print molecule from the spherical particles and wherein the particles have a diameter of about 2 to about 100 microns depending on the amount of stabilizing polymer or agitating technique (claims 1-3 and 15; col. 3, lines 30-33). Thus, Mosbach et al. do not teach or fairly suggest the claimed polymeric particles which are molecularly imprinted and formed via a nozzle or orifice, wherein the particles are, in particular, 1 micron or less in size.

In light of the above discussion, it is evident as to why the present claims are patentable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ling-Siu Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-1098.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reached on 571-272-1114.

/Ling-Siu Choi/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

June 4, 2008